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General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

*Official Records*

FIFTH COMMITTEE
65th meeting
held on
Monday, 12 August 1991
at 10.30 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 65th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MAYCOCK (Barbados)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 131: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS ANGOLA VERIFICATION MISSION (continued)

United Nations Angola Verification Mission II (UNAVEM II) (A/45/1028 and 1043)

1. The CHAIRMAN said that, at its 79th plenary meeting on 28 June 1991, the General Assembly had decided to reopen agenda item 131 and had requested the Fifth Committee to reconvene in order to consider the question of UNAVEM II. The Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General (A/45/1028) and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/45/1043).

2. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman, Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, as a result of the recent Peace Accords for Angola, the Security Council had decided by its resolution 696 (1991) of 30 May 1991 to entrust a new mandate to UNAVEM, henceforth UNAVEM II. That mandate would last for a period of 17 months.

3. In his report (A/45/1028), the Secretary-General indicated that the total cost of UNAVEM II for the 17-month mandate from 1 June 1991 to 31 October 1992 had been estimated at $122,621,900 gross ($121,416,000 net). However, at the current time, the Secretary-General was requesting an appropriation and assessment for the seven-month period from 1 June to 31 December 1991 amounting to $59,171,400 gross ($58,689,500 net).

4. The Advisory Committee had made a detailed and careful analysis of the cost estimates. For the reasons stated in paragraphs 5 to 23 of its report (A/45/1043) and taking into account the projected surplus of UNAVEM I, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should appropriate and assess a total of $48,045,342 gross ($47,711,242 net) for the initial seven-month period of UNAVEM II from 1 June to 31 December 1991. The requirements for UNAVEM II from 1 January to 31 October 1992 would be considered by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session in the light of the performance report on the initial period.

5. Mr. MERIFIELD (Canada) said that his delegation did not favour assessments covering only part of the mandate of such missions. In future, an assessment should be made of the entire period in order to allow the mission to be completed.

6. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the working paper containing a draft resolution on the item under consideration (future A/C.5/45/L.34). The representative of Ireland had agreed to coordinate consultations on the working paper. He hoped that the draft resolution could be finalized so that the Committee could take a decision at its next meeting.

7. Mr. CONMY (Ireland) said that the working paper followed the normal format of financing resolutions and was in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee. Under paragraph 3 the General Assembly would decide to appropriate to the Special Account an amount of $49,467,000 gross. Under paragraph 6 it would decide that there should be set off against the apportionment among Member States the unencumbered balance of $1,421,658 gross. The net effect, therefore, of those two paragraphs was the apportionment of $48,045,342 gross, as set forth in paragraph 23 of the report of the Advisory Committee. That approach was in accordance with the procedure for dealing with unencumbered balances followed in previous ongoing peace-keeping operations.

8. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) asked when and on what grounds the Bureau had decided to convene a meeting of the Committee in the middle of August. The Secretariat should clarify the specific needs of UNAVEM and explain the need to commit funds in addition to the $10 million earmarked to cover the initial requirements.

9. The CHAIRMAN said that the Bureau's decision had been prompted by the schedule of meetings and the availability of conference services over the next few weeks.

10. Mr. ANNAN (Controller) said that, in the Secretariat's view, the $10 million committed would not have been sufficient to meet requirements beyond the end of August 1991. It was therefore necessary to have the programme budget approved as speedily as possible so that requests could be made to Member States that might be ready to make contributions but had not been formally assessed.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.